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From the Camp at Alcantara, April 14. N. S.

THE Marquis das Minas, Governor of the Arms in the Province of Alentejo, having received Orders from the King of Portugal for the Army under his Command to begin its March, and having concerted Measures for that purpose with the other three Governors of Arms, the Earl of Galway, the Conde de Atalaya, and the Marquis de Fronteira, and with the rest of the General Officers, left the Camp between the Caya and Cayola the 31st past, and came to St. Salvador. The 2d we marched to Mayorga, and were joined there by our Artillery, which came by the way of Aronches and Codiceira, guarded by a Body of the Troops of the Province of Tras os Montes, commanded by the Conde de St. Juan. The 3d we marched to St. Vincent. The 4th we took the Way of Serra-Garda, and passing by Salorina, we posted our selves near Membrio; both which Places immediately surrendred to us. Here we rested a day, and the Marquis das Minas sent a Summons to the Judges and Alcaide of Brocos, to come and pay their Homage to King Charles III. which they refused to do, saying, The Duke of Berwick was coming to their Assistance with a great Body of Troops, and was already near the Town. Major-General Don Juan Manuel, Son to the Conde d'Atalaya, was sent the 5th at night with a Detachment to take Post on the River Solor, which we were to cross the next day, and to guard the Fords of Barsa and Passo dos Cavaleyros, by which we were obliged to pass, because the Enemy had ruined the Bridge over that River. The 6th we passed the River without Opposition, and continued our March between Rocks and by Defiles, where 300 Men might disputed the Passage with us, thro', which the Portuguese, with wonderful Dexterity and Expedition, made an easy Passage for the Artillery. We received Advice, That the Duke of Berwick was come into Brocos with 3000 Horse; whereupon it was resolved to attack him the next day. The 7th the Marquis das Minas, by the Advice of the Earl of Galway and the other Generals, divided the Army into two Bodies, and at the head of most of the Horse, and 16 Terzo's of Foot, marched directly to Brocos, the rest of the Army being left behind, under the Command of the Earl of Galway, and the Conde de la Corsana, Lieutenant-General, for the Security of our Artillery and Provisions, which had not yet passed the River. We marched with the greatest Diligence, taking our way under the Mountains, that we might not be discovered by the Enemy's Centinels, and so they might have the less time to put themselves into a Posture of Defence; but as soon as they perceived us entring into the Plain where that Town is situated, they retired with Precipitation, through a Wood lying between the said Town and Carceres. The Marquis das Minas sent a small Detachment to take Possession of Brocos, where they found a quantity of Corn and Meal. Our Horse advanced towards the Wood, and the Foot, which began to be tired with marching from 5 in the Morning, it being then about 4 in the Afternoon, were ordered to follow as fast as they could. Some Parties of our Horse attacked the Enemy's Rear, but in a disorderly manner; and the Duke of Berwick having ordered 3 of his Regiments to face about, some of our Men began to give Ground; and had it not been for the English Horse and Dutch Dragoons, with the Horse of the Province of Beira, who all behaved themselves very well, our Army was in Danger of being put into Disorder: However we charged the Enemy again so vigorously, that they retired with great Precipitation, with the Loss of abundance of their Men, killed and wounded. We took about 80 Prisoners, and 240 Horses. The Prisoners of Note are, Don Diego de Monroy, a Major-General, and the Conde de Canilleros. In this Action, we lost the Conde de St. Vincent, who received several Wounds, of which he died that night. We had very few Men besides either killed or wounded; the chief among the latter was, Lieutenant-General Machado de Brito. The Marquis das Minas was in Danger of being taken by the Enemy; but was timely relieved by his Nephew the young Conde de Atalaya. The Action was not over till very late at night, when our Troops returned to Brocos. The obstinate Inhabitants of that Place having quitted their Houses, some being fled with the Enemy, and the rest retiring into the Churches, the Town was burnt, except the Castle, where a Terzo was left in Garison. The 8th the Army rested near Brocos. The 9th our Troops marched forward, except the Auxiliaries and some other Horse, which were left behind to join the other part of the Army, for the greater Security of the Artillery and Bagage, in case the Enemy should make any Attempt upon it; and we came that evening in sight of Alcantara, from whence a Spaniard came over to us, who told us, there were in the Place 10 Terzo's of Foot; but the strongest of them did not consist of above 400 Men. We invested the Place the same night. The Villages of Villa-Rey and Matilla, presently submitted to us. The 10th the Marquis das Minas caused the Convent St. Francis to be assaulted, which is but a Musket-shot from the Town. This Post was guarded only by a Captain and 50 Men, and was so vigorously attacked by Colonel Blood's Regiment, that they possessed themselves of it Sword in Hand, and took 16 Prisoners. Our Generals viewing a rising Ground, in order to erect a Battery there, the old Conde de Atalaya was wounded by a Musket-Ball; but it is hoped he may recover. Some of our Engineers were also killed or wounded at the same time. A Trumpeter came from the Duke of Berwick to claim some Prisoners, and brought a List of several of his Officers that were missing, who not being in our Hands, we judge they may have dropt in the Woods. The remainder of our Army arrived that day. We began that night to work upon two Batteries, one of eight 24 Pounders, and 7 Field-pieces, the other of five 24 Pounders, and 7 Field-pieces. The 11th 6 Mortars were added to the first Battery. About 100 of the Enemy made a Salley, with intent to have retaken the Convent; but were repulsed with Loss. Our great Battery began to play with such Fury, as put the Besieged under a great Consternation, tho' they had lately received a Reinforcement of two Terzo's from the Duke of Berwick, with Promises of being speedily relieved. The 12th in the morning the second Battery began to play, and both did wonderful Execution. The Marquis de Fronteira, with all the Troops of the Province of Beira, passed the Tajo, and was joined on the other side by the Viscount de Fonte Arcada, with 14 Troops of Horse, 8 Terzo's of Militia, and some Cannon and Mortars. The Enemy seeing so great a Body, presently concluded it to be the Succours they expected; but being soon undeceived, it was such a Discouragement to them, that they resolved to surrender; and hanging out a White Flag, desired to capitulate. They sent out two Colonels as Hostages, and in exchange we sent in Colonel Cornero, Son to the Conde de l'Isle, and the Lieutenant-Colonel of Steward's Regiment; but they refusing to surrender upon the Terms we proposed, that they should all remain Prisoners of War, the Treaty was broke off, and the 13th about noon the Batteries began to fire afresh with greater Fury than ever. A new Proposal was made to the Besieged, That if they would surrender themselves Prisoners of War, all Officers and Soldiers that would enter into the King of Spain's Service, should have the same Commissions as they had with the Enemy, and those who would not, might return home, obliging themselves not to bear Arms against his Catholick Majesty; but they rejected it. The Villages of Villa del Rey, Arroyo del Puerco, Las Ventas, La Matta, La Mattilla, Villas, and others, submitted to us very willingly, and furnish'd us with Provisions. The Marquis de Fronteira sent a Detachment to Tetouin, which Place, having refused to declare for us, was plundered. A new Battery was raised on the other side of the River. Our other Batteries having fired without intermission, had made a Breach, and we intended to storm the Place the 14th. But that day in the morning the Conde de Taroca being sent in to summons the Governor once more, he thought fit to surrender about two this afternoon. By the Capitulation, the Garison are to march out of the Place at the Breach, with their Arms, and the usual Marks of Honour, and then to lay down their Arms, and remain Prisoners of War; only the Officers from the Degree of a Captain and upwards, are to have their Liberty at the end of 6 Months. The Garison consists of 12 Battalions, making in the whole near 5000 Men, among whom are many Officers of Note. We found in the Town abundance of Provisions and Ammunition.

Hague, May 4. N. S. The Troops of this State begin to march towards the Camp which is forming near Maestricht. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough will be going from hence very soon, in order to put himself at the head of the Army. Letters from Paris of the 30th past, which came in this day, bring Advice, That a second Express was arrived there the 28th from the Duke of Vendosme's Army in Italy, with the Particulars of the Action which happened the 19th at Calcinato. It appears by the Relation which the Enemy themselves give of it, That the Imperial Troops made an orderly Retreat, since they own, that towards the end of the Battle the Duke of Vendosme's own Brigade, having passed the Chiese by the Bridge of Calcinato, was surrounded by the Imperialists, who made a great Slaughter of the Enemy, till Count Albergotti, with all the French Horse, and part of their Foot, came to its Rescue. As to the Loss which